WE CLAIM:

1. An extended release pharmaceutical composition comprising

   a) a drug capable of dissociating into a valproate ion;

   b) from about 15% to about 50% w/w of a high viscosity grade hydroxypropyl methylcellulose; and

   c) from about 0.1% to about 10% w/w of a low viscosity grade hydroxypropyl methylcellulose.

2. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the drug capable of dissociating into a valproate ion comprises valproic acid and its pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, and amides.

3. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 2, wherein the valproic acid salt comprises divalproex sodium.

4. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 3, wherein divalproex sodium comprises from about 10% to about 90% by weight of the total pharmaceutical composition weight.

5. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is indicated for once a day dosing.

6. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the high viscosity grade hydroxypropyl methylcellulose comprises a high viscosity grade hydroxypropyl methylcellulose whose 2% aqueous solution has a nominal viscosity greater than about 10,000 cP.

7. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 6, wherein the nominal viscosity comprises from about 10,000 to about 100,000 cP.

8. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the high viscosity grade hydroxypropyl methylcellulose comprises from about 20% to about 40% by weight of the total pharmaceutical composition weight.

9. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the low viscosity grade hydroxypropyl methylcellulose comprises a low viscosity grade

hydroxypropyl methylcellulose whose 2% aqueous solution has a nominal viscosity less than about 1,000 cP.

10. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 9, wherein the nominal viscosity comprises from about 5 to about 100 cP.

11. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the low viscosity grade hydroxypropyl methylcellulose comprises from about 1% to about 5% by weight of the total pharmaceutical composition weight.

12. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutical composition comprises a tablet or a capsule.

13. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the extended release pharmaceutical composition further comprises one or more pharmaceutically inert excipients.

14. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13, wherein the one or more pharmaceutically inert excipients comprise one or more of glidants, lubricants, diluents and binders.

15. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the extended release pharmaceutical composition is free of microcrystalline cellulose.

16. A process for the preparation of an extended release pharmaceutical composition, the process comprising:

a) blending a drug capable of dissociating into the valproate ion, from about 15% to about 50% w/w of a high viscosity grade hydroxypropyl methylcellulose and from about 0.1% to about 10% w/w of a low viscosity grade hydroxypropyl methylcellulose to form a blend;

b) optionally granulating the blend;

c) lubricating the blend; and

d) compressing or filling into a suitable size solid dosage form.

17. The process according to claim 16, wherein the drug capable of dissociating as a valproate ion comprises valproic acid and its pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, and amides.

18. The process according to claim 16, wherein the drug capable of dissociating as valproate ion comprises divalproex sodium.

19. The process according to claim 16, wherein the pharmaceutical composition comprises a tablet or a capsule.

20. The process according to claim 16, wherein the granulation is carried out by wet granulation, dry granulation or melt extrusion.

21. A method of treating mania, migraine and epilepsy in a patient in need thereof, the method comprising administering an extended release pharmaceutical composition comprising:

a. a drug capable of dissociating into a valproate ion;

b. from about 15% to about 50% w/w of a high viscosity grade hydroxypropyl methylcellulose; and

c. from about 0.1% to about 10% w/w of a low viscosity grade hydroxypropyl methylcellulose.